

SOCIAL WORKERS

Many of our families require some additional support- over a third are open to social care through the Children With Disability Team. These social workers have a good understanding of the needs of a family, can support with help at home (PA) and resource respite provisions as well as help manage lots of professionals or support families through stressful periods.

Sometimes a family may struggle in the short term and enter social care via a different agency (e.g. Police) and a plan of action is quickly agreed for support.

If you feel you could benefit from some support through social care, please let us know-

dsl@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

Family support lead

lynne.ward@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

or your child's teacher.

We do not judge, we see the struggles many of our families face and we are here to support you always. With a little bit of help when you are overwhelmed, life can become manageable.



HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

Class Teachers are a good point of initial contact, they can signpost for additional support in school through DSL's and our Family Support Lead, Lynne. (look at her leaflet for how she can help)

We have Dr Rebecca Walker, our link Psychologist from Mindworks who can help with Mental Health. Please let the class teacher know if you think this would be useful and we can see how best to support

We have a team of health therapists on site who can help such as a nurse, OT, SALT and Physio.

We can also refer into social services - to the Children with Disabilities Team.

You can contact me

clare.walker@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

Or the team

dsl@portesbery.surrey.sch.uk

Useful numbers- C-SPA-

Phone: 0300 470 9100 (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm)

Out of hours phone: 01483 517898 to speak to our emergency duty team.

Email: cspa@surreycc.gov.uk



Portesbery School

A safe and happy school where everyone matters,
every voice is heard and everyone learns.

Safeguarding at Portesbery School

Meet the team of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)



Clare



Sam



Nathan



Cathryn



Lauren



Lynne



Lisa



Adele
Early Years



Jo
Post 16

Safeguarding Governor—Emma Newman



What is Safeguarding?

All schools use 2 statutory documents called Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working to Safeguard Children-these are our rule book. Our staff are trained annually based on this important document and the document itself is updated yearly.

Safeguarding means the safety and wellbeing of all our students at school and at home. It covers a huge umbrella of responsibility such as ensuring suitable checks are carried out on all members of staff prior to undertaking their job, induction training and refreshers whilst carrying out their role, health and safety of pupils on and off site as well as ensuring that we follow Surrey processes when reporting a safeguarding concern.

The full Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found on the school website.

We have a duty of care to your child and we take that responsibility seriously.

WHAT MIGHT WE CALL YOU ABOUT?

Attendance- We believe children should be in school wherever possible. Please let us know if your child is unwell and will not be attending school by using parent mail or calling the school office as early as possible. If we are concerned about your child's overall attendance we may call you or send a letter home.

Note- if we do not hear from you by 9.30am we will call you. If no contact by 11am we will call social services/police or do a home visit as you/ your child might have come to harm.

Marks/bruising- always let us know if your child has a mark/bruise in a place on their body- not typical for them. We are likely to call you if staff notice a bruise/mark. We may complete a body map if the mark/bruise (unusual only) is unexplained. These may be sent to your social worker or social services as per Surrey County Council Policy. We will communicate with you if this is the case, unless there is potential risk of harm to the child. For pupils who are non independently mobile (NIM) we are obliged to refer all mark/bruising to social services. We use our discretion where possible and also have NIM risk assessments in place so we can share what is typical marking for a NIM child and what is unusual.

Disclosure- a child may say something that we notice is unusual. We will call you and talk it through unless there is potential risk of harm to a child. We then have to contact social services.

Change of behaviour- we know how your child communicates, so if there is a sudden change in behaviour we will want to talk it through so we can work together.

WHY?

Safeguarding is complex and even more complex when a child has difficulties communicating. It is important we work together for the best outcome for your child. Good communication is always best.

Children with SEN are 3x more likely to be vulnerable to experience abuse than their peers so we are always cautious and use the 'it could happen here' approach. We can never be complacent.

Our DSL's are non judgemental and trained in all areas of safeguarding. We have good links with safeguarding professionals.

RECORDING

We use an online recording system called CPOMS. (Child Protection Online Monitoring System)

This is a confidential system.

Although any staff can add to it, only the DSL's have access to the information.

We place CIN notes, referrals, records of conversations with parents/social workers and may note changes of behaviour or concerns a parent/ staff member/transport staff may have had. It is useful to build a chronology.

Concerns will be placed on CPOMs and discussions around these are shared with parents where appropriate.

Each week, the DSL's meet and see if there are any outstanding actions from entries during the week so these can be actioned quickly or any more complex issues that we need some advice on- this could include a process/contact with a professional. This ensures issues do not drift.

